THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Available productivity figures for 1990-91 in respect of some of the major coal producing countries of the world are as under :—

Countries	Under-ground	Opencast
Australia (Queensland)	14.9	30.6
United States . .	10.3	47.7
China . . .	1.3	Not Available
France . . .	3.9	Do.
Germany . . .	4.1	Do.
Poland . . .	1.9	Do.
India—		
Coal India Limited .	0.53	3.31
Singareni Collierie s Company Limited .	0.65	4.74

(c) Some of the main reasons for overall low output per manshift (OMS) in Indian coal mines particularly the underground mines are as under :—

(i) Majority of the underground mines are old, extensive and worked manually.

(ii) Many underground mines are having geo-mining problems like steep and multiple seams, occurance of fires and water logged old workings in adjoining areas, builtup surfarce structures which need production by, sand stowing etc. requiring employment of sizeable workforce for dealing with such unproductive activities.

(iii) Coal companies are required to provide supporting services for workshops, ware-houses, water supply, colony maintenance etc. through departmental workforce, which gets added to the total manpower for computation of output per manshift lowering the overall productivity figure.

(iv) Power shortage and frequent interruptions in power supply in Eastern region in ECL, BCCL and CCL mines resulting in idle hours.

(v) High rate of absenteeism.

(d) Some of the measures taken to improve the productivity of coal mines are improved manpower management, use of higher capacity equipment, introduction of new technologies, improved availability and utilisation of equipment and improved working conditions in underground mines.

Memorandum signed by Government with workers of CIL

1246. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed a memorandum of understanding with the workers of the coal India Limited regarding their various demands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any contradiction between Government and the Coal India Limited about the utility of the memorandum of understanding;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) what are the other measures taken by Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Government have not signed any Memorandum of understanding with the workers of Coal India Ltd. Presumably the reference is to National Coal Wage Agreements signed between the Management and workers of Coal Industry, covering wage structure, DA, fringe benefits etc.

(d) to (f) There is no contradiction between the Government and CIL about the utility of NCWA. NCWAs have been signed in the past since Dec., 1974 and they have been contributing to the smooth functioning of the Coal Industry.